President’s Message

My Fellow Kappans,

Our PDK year is now complete and I want to thank everyone for all the help they provided to make this another great year for our PDK West Georgia Area Chapter.

On April 19th we had our Annual Awards Banquet. It was lots of fun and good for our relations with the school systems and with our emeritus colleagues. About 60 folks were in attendance and it was nice to have the problem of running out of food rather than that no one showing up. Award presentations went well and new people became aware of our organization and the good things that we do each year.

On May 3rd we had our annual Installation Dinner where we installed officers and new members and closed out our activities for the year. The close comfortable atmosphere at the dinner allowed for reflections about our past year and discussion about what we want to accomplish next year.

It has been a pleasure serving as your President this year and your assistance has made this a very productive year. It is great being part of an organization that values quality education and awards those who work diligently to further that ideal. To know that I have had the opportunity to serve an organization of people with such dedication to educational excellence helps me strive to improve my part so that the Chapter can function even more efficiently.

I look forward to another great year as your president for the 2007-2008 semesters. I have learned much about leading this organization and believe we can have an even more productive year next year. Your officers will begin planning in July and a major effort next year will be new membership. Let’s each commit to bringing at least one new person to one of our PDK events next year and perhaps encouraging them to join us once they have experienced what we do and our value to education and our community. We want to have our Chapter continue to grow and expand so that we can do more in a larger geographical area. Let’s all help make that happen!

Thanks again for all you do, for PDK, and for education,

Dan Saurino

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Special Feature:
On April 19, we held our annual Awards Banquet. Among the many recipients was Ms. Michelle Dean who was awarded the Future Teacher Award. As a future teacher, we thought her acceptance speech would make a wonderful addition to our newsletter. We hope you agree.

Why I Want To Be An Educator
By Michelle Dean
Temple High School - FEA Chapter

There are so many reasons that I wish to be an educator! Being an educator is not about you; it is about the people that you teach. It is about the lives that you help change for the better. There are three main reasons that I wish to be an educator:
1) I believe that everyone deserves the chance to learn and grow;
2) I love to see the “fire” in a child’s eyes when they understand and have learned something for the first time; and
3) I want to give HOPE for the future to someone who has no hope.

It is not enough to say that you can learn and grow. You as a teacher have to be able to teach your children how to learn and grow. No matter what the difficulty a child or person has, they deserve a chance to prove that they are able to learn. Many children who come from a disadvantaged background, often do not get that chance because they get the idea that everyone has given up on them and they begin to want to quit, and give up on themselves. I want to reach children from all backgrounds, races, creeds, religions, and so on. I believe that as educators, it is your job to give back that chance to those who have given up.

When I say the “fire” in a child’s eyes, I mean simply the “I finally get it” smile. They see that you care. They are happy because someone finally took out the time and the energy to help them. They have proven not only to themselves, but to others as well, that they are smart and can succeed. I hope to light that “fire” in many children’s eyes.

As a future educator, I understand that hope is what drives us to succeed and at least give it our all. Hope is something that many students lose in their early years in school. They start to believe that they will never make it, or that they are not smart enough to make it. This is what should be the biggest drive in anyone to be an educator. All people have in this world is hope. By teaching, you give people the ability and opportunity to do well and learn how to learn. By doing this, you are teaching and giving hope of a better life than that of working at McDonald’s and other type of jobs of that nature. This is the main reason that I want to be an educator. I lost my hope one time and a teacher gave it back to me; I want to be able to give hope back to someone like me one day.

Teaching is not just about the books or the material; it is about the love and hope that teachers give everyday to their students. Knowledge is a gift, one that should be given freely and without expecting anything in return. Only a teacher has the love and patience needed to teach. Teachers are the cornerstones of the future because they teach and mold our future leaders. Teachers are important people and I want to be one of those people that help save and change lives. I do not understand why anyone would not want to be an educator. The rewards are endless and the best part is that none of it is done for you; it is all done with love for someone else.
In honor of Ms. Dean, and her peers, we would like to remind members of the Future Educators Association (FEA) and salute their advisor, Mrs. Tammy Kinney, for a job well done.

FEA is an international program for middle and high school students interested in exploring careers in education. The program is similar to the Future Teachers of America, an activity that existed prior to 1969 under the auspices of the NEA.

The administrative office of the FEA program is located at Phi Delta Kappa International, the professional education association. PDK’s headquarters are located in Bloomington, Indiana.

For more information, contact: Erin Young, International FEA Director at fea@pdkintl.org at Phi Delta Kappa International; P.O. Box 789, Bloomington, IN 47402-0789; Phone: (812) 339-1156 or 1-800-766-1156
Annual Awards Banquet – This Year’s Recipients: Our annual Awards Banquet was held April 19, 2007 in coordination with the Convocation ceremony of the College of Education. Aside from our honorees, we were joined by numerous past professors of UWG, including the first president of our West Georgia Chapter. Our award recipients were:

As pictured from left to right:
Michelle Dean, Carroll County, Future Teacher Award;
Megan Pearson, Carroll County, Wal-Mart First Year Teacher Award;
Kisha Thomas, Carrollton City, First Year Teacher Award;
Sylvia Caldwell, Carroll County, Teacher of the Year; and
Terri Buckland, Coweta County, Teacher of the Year.

Other recipients who were unable to attend the banquet:
Christie Johnson, Carroll County, Administrator of the Year and Outstanding Research;
Beth Trammell, Carrollton City, Teacher of the Year; and
Kim Thompson, Douglas County, Teacher of the Year.

NEW MEMBER: On Thursday, May 5, 2007, we initiated Ms. Katherine Hardison. She is a candidate for the Master’s in Reading Education here at the University of West Georgia.

Ms. Hardison pictured with her proud parents.

Ms. Hardison
NEW OFFICERS for 2007-2008: On May 5, we also installed our new officers for the coming year. These are as follows:

- President: Daniel Saurino
- Vice-President of Programs: Abbot Packard
- Vice-President of Membership: John Ponder
- Treasurer: Gail Marshall
- Secretary: Tamra Ogletree
- Foundations Representative: Ronald Reigner
- Advisor: Robert Morris
- Webmaster: Fenqjen Luo
- Communications: Marty Bray
- Newsletter Editors: Penelope Saurino and Rosalind Duplechain

RECOGNITION OF LONG-STANDING MEMBERSHIP IN PDK. On behalf of the West Georgia Chapter, we would like to recognize long-standing members of our chapter.

- Ratha D. McGee – Cohutta, GA – 40 years
- Edna Earl Edwards – Oxford, GA – 30 years
- Jacqueline Fillingim – Carrollton, GA - 25 years
- David Bruce Murdock – Monroe, WA – 25 years
- Bettye B. Roberts – Carrollton, GA – 25 years
- Judith Ann Monsaas – Alpharetta, GA – 20 years

Chapter Website
For chapter information, please visit http://coe.westga.edu/committees/pdk/.

E-Mail Needed
We need to know your e-mail in order to inform you of PDK events. Please e-mail Fenqjen Luo at fluo@westga.edu to submit your email address and to add your name to our chapter's list- serv.

Membership
For membership information, please visit PDK international at http://www.pdkintl.org/members/mbrhome.htm or contact Dr. John Ponder at jponder@westga.edu or 678-839-6076.

“There was a terrible fire, Dad, but I managed to keep it confined to my report card.”
It’s Graduate Scholarship Time! If you, or a Kappan you know, will be working on a graduate degree in education during the coming year, please check out the PDK website at www.pdkintl.org/awards/gradfell.htm for complete information on our 2007 Graduate Awards. PDK offers scholarships at the master’s, specialist, doctoral, and research levels in all fields of education. Two specific awards, the R. Gerald Melton Memorial for doctoral students in Education Administration and the Ruey H. Witten Fellowship for post-baccalaureate students in Music Education, are available in addition to the PDK’s Graduate Fellowships in Educational Leadership. **Don’t wait, apply today** — the deadlines are May 15 for the Melton scholarship and June 1 for the Witten and Graduate Fellowships.

The 2007 Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation competition is also underway. Applications will be accepted until 1 September 2007 for dissertations completed, approved by committee, and accepted by the graduate school between 1 September 2006 and 31 August 2007. Submission requirements and the application form are available at www.pdkintl.org/awards/gradfell.htm.

Contact scholarships@pdkintl.org with your questions or requests for additional information.

Scholarship and Teacher of the Year Information. There are numerous scholarships available to PDK members. Let your membership work for you!

**Prospective Educator Scholarships**: Kappan undergraduate education majors and current high school seniors whose intended college major is education are eligible for these awards. Applications for 2008 will be available in late October at http://www.pdkintl.org/awards/awardhome.htm. The submission deadline is February 1.

**Henkin Conference Scholarship**: PDK Members Only. The Paul H. Henkin scholarships are provided to help educators new to the profession attend PDK’s annual conference. See http://www.pdkintl.org/awards/awardhome.htm. The application deadline for 2007 is August 1.

**International Travel Scholarships**: PDK Members Only. The Gerald Howard Read International Travel Scholarships provide financial assistance to Kappans who want to take advantage of the professional development opportunities offered by the International Travel Program. See http://www.pdkintl.org/awards/awardhome.htm.

**Teacher of the Year Program**
UWG - Summer Learning Festival. The West Georgia Chapter of PDK is a proud sponsor of UWG’s Summer Learning Festival to be held on the campus of the University of West Georgia June 4-6, 2007. Please visit http://www.westga.edu/~festival for more information on the presenters, presentation topics, child-sitting at a nominal fee, and graduate credit. Registration and bag lunch are FREE but space is limited, so register quickly.

PDK Summer Institutes. If you are interested in growing professionally, remember our organization as summer opportunities just for you! This year’s institutes will focus on the following topics of interest: Effective Classroom Management – Make it work for you, Powerful Classroom Strategies for At-Risk Learners, Planning Lessons for Academic Success, Weaving Critical Thinking Skills across the Curriculum, and Getting Results for Older Reluctant Readers.

Dates and Location
The 2007 Summer Institutes will be held from July 23-27, 2007 at the Phi Delta Kappa International Conference Center at 408 N. Union Street, Bloomington, Indiana

Contact Information
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Mission of Phi Delta Kappa: to promote quality education, with particular emphasis on publicly supported education, as essential to the development and maintenance of a democratic way of life.

Code and Creed:

I dedicate myself proudly to my profession in the belief that universal education is the foundation for our society's strength. I will strive through

Research

To seek accurate knowledge in the art and science of education;
To utilize such knowledge for the improvement of teaching; and
To share new truths with fellow workers.

Service

To help children and adults become more effective members of our society;
To perpetuate and to improve educational standards; and
To foster free and equal educational opportunity for all.

Leadership

To assume an influential role in education;
To stimulate in others the qualities of leadership; and
To guide learners toward worthy academic, economic, moral, social, and spiritual competence.